Highway connecting Jalandhar to Amritsar

†*352. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highway connecting Jalandhar to Amritsar is a narrow one and it is planned to be widened;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in view of the indications of increasing trade with Pakistan, there is a need to pay special attention on this stretch of National Highway; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and by when this stretch of the road is targeted to be widened?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Jalandhar-Amritsar section of National Highway No. 1 is a two laned road and its length is 69 km. Letter of acceptance has been issued for the work of four laning of 49 Km. stretch of this road on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The balance 20 km is also planned for four laning on BOT basis.

(c) The existing and projected traffic on this road justifies its widening to four lanes between Jalandhar and Amritsar. It will also cater to trade requirements, if any.

(d) Four laning is targeted to be completed by December, 2008.

Release of Indian and Pakistani fishermen

†*353. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani fishermen released by Government of India from January, 2004 to April, 2005;

(b) The number of Indian fishermen released by Government of Pakistan during the said period;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.